

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 714

S E C R E T MOSCOW 3251

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS:

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, UR, US

SUBJECT: SCHEDULED MEETING OF US-USSR JOING COMMERCIAL MISSION

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT A FINAL DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE REGARDING THE NEXT MEETING OF THE US-USSR JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION. IF IT FOLLOWS THE ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE, IT WOULD BE HELD THIS SPRING IN WASHINGTON.

2. GIVEN THE UNACCEPTABLE SOVIET PERFORMANCE IN ANGOLA, THE STRESS IN BREZHNEV'S REPORT TO THE PARTY CONGRESS ON AID TO "NATIONAL-LIBERATION STRUGGLES" -- WHICH CAN BE USED TO EXPLAIN AWAY MORE OF THE SAME ELSEWHERE -- AND ALSO THE SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE ON OTHER IMPORTANT BILATERAL MATTERS SUCH AS THE RADIATION ISSUE, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO MOVE FROM WORDS OF WARNING TO SOME SLOWING OF ACTIVITIES IMPORTANT TO THE SOVIETS. ONE OBVIOUS CANDIDATE IS THE MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE THRUST OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY ENUNCIATED AT THE PARTY CONGRESS IMPLIES INCREASED RESORT TO THE IMPORT OF FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY.

3. I THEREFORE URGE THAT THE SOVIETS BE TOLD THAT THIS SPRING IS NOT A PROPITIOUS TIME FOR A MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION. A POSTPONEMENT SINE DIE

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WOULD NOT OF COURSE COMMIT US TO ANY PARTICULAR COURSE

OF ACTION IN THE TRADE FIELD, BUT WOULD BE A CLEAR
SIGNAL THAT WE MAY IF NECESSARY BE FORCED TO CONSIDER
STEPS WHICH WOULD AFFECT THEIR ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT A
FEATURE OF THEIR CURRENT ECONOMIC POLICY TO WHICH THEY
OBVIOUSLY ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE. STOESSEL

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